8/15/70

Dear Hal,

I've been meaning to write since a few days after getting the Coen clip on Dolan, to give you a different version I got: Joe arranged to get himself fired from KGO, apparently because otherwise the contract held him, and instead of Garry it is Belli. We'll see, huh?

I'm awaiting the return of the signed contract on COUP, the edited-down version, restricted to King, to be titled FRAME-UP: The King/Ray Case. They tried to screw me out of two-thirds of the advance, I've gotten half of that back and a formula which may get it back to where it was agreed to. The most principled publishers are crooks. It is inevitable. It is a helluva book. Just did a new 9,000 word close beginning about noon yesterday, when I must have done 8,000. Left me emotionally pooped. This covers the successful suit and what I got thereby, the latter played down much because I'd doped it all out right to begin with. I'll use the stuff in the appendix.

They're way behind schedule on the editing, which was first to have been done 7/15, then 8/10, now by the 24th. If they send it to me in takes, I'll get most of it back before they finish it. They're to rush manufacture so we can take advantage of any news breaks, and I do anticipate one that would be the most incredible single development since JFK got it. I've just about forced it. Can't record it for now. But I think it is the end product, the inevitable one, of three things: the contents of the book, which they know; getting Bud to be Ray's lawyer, which guarantees that all this stuff will be available for court and other use; and the suit, which smoked out what I already had but in form admissable in court and in a context of criminality. The bar will strain to ignore this stuff! So ,maybe you can guess what is now possible.

You'd have enjoyed the quiet chewing the Chief Judge of the federal district court gave the poor DJ attorney, who was but a hired hand, having no personal knowledge or responsibility. They have until Tuesday to give me what they are withholding, If they don't, he'll issue an order on it. I'd rather have it that way, for they deserve it, but I've really gone out of my way not to make it hard for them, on the theory that there might be some decent men hurt, which I do not want, and that decent ones may do their own looking and learn the truth, which would be helpful.

We've filed a suit on the spectro. The complaint doesn't say much. Bud will take this to the Supreme Court, he says, for whoever loses will not give up. Another is ready. Several others need revision.

I've heard nothing from Paul for a month. Hope it is just that he is busy, and on something more than the Alvarez thing, which fills me with misgivings. It is science like the WC is scientific, and the FBI. Something like flatworld science. While I'm no ballistics expert, I've fired too many guns to believe what he says no matter what claptrap they muster. And there are so many ways that effort could be spent with more constructive possibilities.

I've not been phoning to do any shows because I think the time is not yet for publicity. There is still the credibility problem, and until after I see the Garrison book, I'll have some apprehensions in that direction. It is due in October, I hear. Mort flashed on on TV two weeks ago. I didn't hear or see it, but some of our friends report he was more than usually onnoxious...Don't know when the Enquirer piece is coming out...I've not been rushing to revise the complaints because I lack the court fees...The entire advance will go on our indebtedness, which is essential. Interest each year is enough for us to feed ourselves on and more.

Who is the idiot Stanley J. Marks, if you know, and who is behind him? Or does he have dough? He has to be insane. I've been given a copy of his latest mixture of sickness and thievery. That sort of thing hurts us much.

O in NO is out of print, so I'd like to locate John and get the copies he still has back. Have you heard where he is? He is a rat.

Lil has carded allofboth parts of COUP, plus appendix. It will not take her more than a day to type the new close in that format, and the indexing will not be hard. So, I think when that is done, I'll make a master, give Paul the necessary copy for others to have it, add what I will to the appendix, then the index, and all that material willbe available. I'm hoping all the appendix that relates indirectly to King will be in the commercial version. I can use some of the rest elsewhere, as time goes on. And meanwhile, if it is no burden for Paul, those who may want it and who I'll want to have it can get it by xerox.

After the suits are all fided, I think I'll be able to return to the completion of my autopsy work. That could make a helluva book, too, edited down. What an appendix I have for that!

I've signed with another lecture bureau, one in the midwest.

I've got other things the WC didn't have, but I don't want to talk about them yet. I will, in court.

Best to everyone,